

California Electric and Magnetic Fields Program NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES UPDATE

JULY 16 - AUGUST 15, 1999

Change in Investor-Owned Utility Representative to the SAC

Kent Jaffa of PacifiCorp has resigned from the Stakeholders Advisory Committee. John Dawsey, of San Diego Gas and Electric, has taken over his position as the investor-owned utilities' official representative on the SAC Core. We appreciate Kent's dedicated service in the past and expect that he will continue to take an interest in our activities, and we look forward to working with John Dawsey in the future.

Contract with Dr. Liburdy

Earlier this year, the Program contracted with Dr. Robert Liburdy to review the information on temperature sensitivity of the breast cancer cells used in his melatonin and Tamoxifen studies as a part of the background research for our upcoming Risk Evaluation. Dr. Liburdy has informed us that other responsibilities will not allow him to complete this work by the time we will need it. The contract with Dr. Liburdy has been canceled, and we will ask Dr. Paul Gailey, another consultant doing background research for our Risk Evaluation, to do this work.

Risk Evaluation Guidelines

Public Comments Due

The Risk Evaluation Guidelines (REG) public comment period ends August 30, 1999. All comments must be received at the California EMF Program by this date to be considered in the final revision. Comments received during the public comment period will be considered in producing the final draft of the Guidelines, and the authors will provide written responses to the comments and will attach the original comments and their responses to the final draft. Guidelines authors held workshops in northern and southern California to answer questions about the document.

Report to California Public Utilities Commission

We received comments from several stakeholders on the draft of the Program's report to the CPUC released for stakeholder review in June. We appreciate their time and effort and believe that the comments will help us to improve our report. A memo responding to the comments is

being written and the report is being revised with them in mind.

Stakeholder Comments on Risk Evaluation Guidelines and Policy Project Schedules

Several stakeholders also provided comments on the proposed processes for completing the REG and the School and Power Grid Policy projects. In response, we have revised the schedules to give more opportunity for comment on the final draft of the REG, to expand the Policy projects' peer reviews, and to clarify what opportunities we are providing for public involvement in the process. We will send revised copies of the schedule, a memo responding to the comments received, and related project management "Gantt charts" to our core stakeholders for their reference.

Future SAC Meetings

Several SAC members have asked us when future meetings will take place. We are developing detailed plans for finishing the remaining Program projects and will be requesting a no-cost extension to make this possible. Based on these plans, we hope to hold the following meetings. Additional meetings are possible as needed.

We cannot give definite dates after the end of next February, both because they depend on the progress of several projects and because we do not yet know the duration of any extension that we may receive. Instead, this list places meetings in the context of the activities to which they are related.

In **October 1999**, we expect to hold a short SAC meeting to discuss budget and schedule for the remainder of the Program. This will precede the workshop

for stakeholder and public questions about the Power Grid Policy project narrative and computer model.

In **November, 1999**, we hope to hold a workshop to answer questions about the narrative and computer model for the School Policy project. We may also have a brief formal SAC meeting to discuss other subjects.

In **August, 2000**, when we expect the final drafts of both policy projects to be completed, we plan to hold a two-day SAC "policy retreat." At this meeting, stakeholders and public will discuss the implications of final Power Grid Policy project report and the final School Policy project report and express their opinions about them. Minutes will be taken and forwarded to the CPUC along with the final project reports.

In **June, 2001**, at the end of the Program, we expect to hold a final SAC meeting to allow stakeholders and the public to express views on the CDHS final Risk Evaluation and Policy Integration reports.

In addition, we will hold Science Advisory Panel (SAP) meetings and other public meetings and informational workshops for stakeholders and the public. There will be a meeting for SAP's vote on the final draft of the Risk Evaluation Guidelines, probably in February 2000, depending on how long it takes for CDHS departmental review of this document. This meeting will be open to stakeholders and the public, but there will be no public testimony.

Individual members of the SAC will have opportunities to comment on other Program work. The tentative schedule is below (list may not be comprehensive). Again, dates depend on progress of the related projects and the possibility of a no-cost Program extension.

- comment period on public comment draft of Risk Evaluation Guidelines (July/August 1999)
- opportunity to comment on draft of Power Grid Policy Project (October/November 1999)
- opportunity to comment on final report of Worker Exposure Study (estimated November 1999)
- opportunity to comment on draft School Policy Project (est. November/December 1999)
- opportunity to comment on the final report of the School Exposure Study (est. December 1999)
- opportunity to write to SAP on final REG document and to observe SAP as it makes its final determination (estimated January/February, 2000)
- opportunity to comment on final report of Kaiser Miscarriage study (estimated October, 2000)
- opportunity to comment on draft Risk Evaluation and draft Policy Integration (estimated January, 2001)

- opportunity to send letters to SAP about final Risk Evaluation and Policy Integration (estimated May, 2001)
- opportunity to observe process at public meeting of SAP (the day before the final SAC meeting, estimated in June, 2001)

Research Unit Progress

Risk Evaluation Guidelines: The public comment draft is currently undergoing public review. Workshops were held in northern and southern California to answer questions about it. Comments are due to the Program in writing by August 30, 1999.

School Policy Analysis: Contractors Asher Sheppard and Laurie Geissinger are working on the Local Briefing Document that will summarize the project's results for school boards, local governments, and other organizations. Keith Florig continues to work on the draft narrative for statewide policy-makers.

Power Grid/Land Use Policy Analysis: Detlof von Winterfeldt and his team have revised the draft of the final report based on the comments of Program staff. Revision of the appendices is in progress. It will be available for stakeholder and public comment in September.

Epidemiology Workshop: Staff continue to edit the discussions from January's workshop and are preparing the presented papers for publication.

Prospective Miscarriage Study: Entry of the questionnaire data has been completed, and the project team's statistician has started data cleaning. Ascertainment of pregnancy outcomes of the participants is almost complete. Review of their clinical charts will be necessary for the 18 subjects whose pregnancy outcome was unknown.

outcome	number	percent
ectopic	25	2.4
miscarriage	186	17.7
live Birth	811	77.3
induced abortion	5	0.5
stillbirth	4	0.4
unknown	18	1.7

School Exposure Assessment Survey: Enertech, the contractor, has reviewed peer reviewer comments on last October's draft. Revision will begin when Luciano Zaffanella returns from his vacation later this month. In addition, an electrical contractor has reviewed the calculations of net current mitigation in the report and provided some benchmarking data from the field. These will also be discussed with Dr. Zaffanella. Engineering consultants have been selected to benchmark the power line mitigation costs, and a proposed scope of work and information packets have been mailed to them.

California Exposure Analysis: Some additional analyses of the data collected for the Prospective Miscarriage Study is underway.

Occupational Exposure Study: The validation phase of this project, in which data were collected on both the estimates of an Internet questionnaire and the measurements for a certain group of workers, has been completed. The contract team is now analyzing the field data, comparing the results of the questionnaire with the actual measurements of the workers in the study.

Policy Integration: This project is still in the planning stages.

Risk Evaluation: Claire Sherman has almost completed her formal review of the childhood leukemia literature, in preparation for the Program's Risk Evaluation. EMF staff have also begun examining evidence of dose response in these studies. Walter Rogers has begun reviewing the related animal evidence. The task of reviewing possible confounding effects of microtemperature changes has been assigned to Paul Gailey, since Robert Liburdy has canceled his contract.

EMF Program Library: Staff are continuing to organize and expand our library of literature on EMF, which will be used by staff and contractors working on the Risk Evaluation.

Education and Technical Assistance Unit Updates

Supporting the REG Public Comment Period: The Education Unit assisted the Research Unit by taking phone calls from the public with questions about the purpose of the REG and their Clarification Sessions, the availability of the draft, and how to provide comments during the public comment period.

Web Site: Staff have completed an updated draft of the text describing the EMF Program and its activities and products to be posted as part of the reorganized site. An Internet consultant is currently working on creating a new structure for the Web page, and we hope to have a working model later this month. We will review it for structure and content, and we hope to post it on the Internet in the late summer or early fall. In the meantime, we have posted a revised version of the short fact sheet in printable form. We have begun tracking information on number of people accessing the site and some descriptive information about them and the site's most popular pages.

Response to Stakeholder Questions and Comments: This unit coordinates the responses to comments received from our stakeholders on non-technical Program products and activities such as the draft report to the CPUC and the processes for completing the policy projects and REG. This month, Education Unit staff led discussions on how to incorporate these comments into revised documents, helped to write memoranda responding to them, and are helping to revise and finalize these products.

Other Recent Activities: This month we received more than the usual number of questions about the possible health effects of EMF. These telephone calls and E-mail messages came from a diverse variety of people, from individuals concerned about the fields from power lines or electrical equipment near homes or offices, to a local government official doing research for a new construction project, to a representative from a charity in southern California.

In addition, the staff reviewed the text for the California utilities' updated bill insert on EMF and worked with the utility companies and the CPUC to finalize its wording.

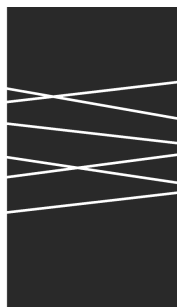
As always, Education Unit staff also reviewed Research Unit materials for clarity and readability, and coordinated, edited, and wrote portions of the Program's monthly newsletter.

EMF PROGRAM STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

note Raymond's new email address

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